

NOTICE

CRD NOTICE 2024-08

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TRANSPLANT SEED OYSTERS FROM THE GREAT WICOMICO RIVER FOR THE 2024 OYSTER REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

NOTICE is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) intends to transplant approximately 3,500 bushels of seed oysters from the Great Wicomico River to the Black Berry Hangs Area of the Chesapeake Bay.

THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.

GENERAL:

Approximate starting date will be Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Harvesting will be done by shaft (hand) tong only. Seed oysters will be unculled and a minimum count of 600 count/bushel with 6 quarts of shell maximum. All tonging will be completed by 12:00 noon daily. VMRC personnel will be present to mark the harvest areas and to measure and/or tally and document each harvester's daily catch. All bushels shall be standard Virginia bushels.

One contractor will be utilized for the transporting and planting of the seed oysters. The planter will be the contractor and will be responsible for transporting and planting the seed oysters in the designated area. The planter will also be responsible for paying the harvester.

Seed oysters will be offloaded by the harvester into a boat provided by the contractor for transporting to the plant area.

The price per bushel to be paid to the planter/contractor will be \$10.50. Before any payments can be made to the contractor, there must be verification of registration with the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises, as a small, woman, or minority owned company, a contract, and a current Tax form (W-9) completed and on file at the Marine Resources Commission main office.

Payment will be processed after receipt, verification, and approval of all supporting documentation.

All vessels conducting work for the 2024 Restoration/Replenishment Plan will be required to have on board a vessel monitoring device, provided by Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division. Monitoring device is required to be on board at all times while under contract. The monitoring device will be provided by Shellfish Management Division staff overseeing the project.

The receiving areas will be designated and marked by VMRC personnel. VMRC personnel will supervise the planting of the seed oysters in the receiving areas.

All qualified harvesters, who possess a Commercial Fishermen Registration Card and hand tong gear license, will be utilized. Please contact the Conservation and Replenishment by Monday, May 20, 2024, of your desire to participate in the project (757-247-2121).

LOTTERY:

If more than one (1) contractor for the seed oysters being transplanted should respond, then a lottery will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m. at the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department office located at Fort Monroe. Building address is: VMRC, 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, Virginia. The lottery will be open to those individuals who wish to be present during the drawing.

RESPONSE DEADLINE:

Responses are requested by no later than 12 noon, **May 20, 2024**.

These responses should be submitted to the Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division.

Information required: Name, address, telephone no., description of equipment intended for operation on this project and your boat's name or number.

CONTACT PERSON:

Andrew Button
Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division
Head, Conservation and Replenishment Department

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